

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04975 312117Z
ACTION SY-05

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R 312030Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1791

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: ROVING PATROL

1. RSO HAS SUGGESTED AND SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE AND CHARGE HAVE CONCURRED WITH A PROPOSAL TO SET UP A 24 HOUR ROVING PATROL OF RESIDENCES OF U.S. MISSION EMPLOYEES IN BOGOTA. THE SYSTEM ENVISAGED WILL REQUIRE TWO VEHICLES AND SIX DRIVERS/ROVING PATROL GUARDS TO COVER THE 140 RESIDENCES OF USG PERSONNEL AT THIS POST.
2. THE ROVING PATROLS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHECK ALL RESIDENCES AT LEAST 2-3 TIMES IN A 24 HOUR PERIOD. DETEX KEYS WOULD BE INSTALLED IN ALL HOUSES AND THE ROVING PATROL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO "PUNCH" THE CLOCK EACH TIME THE HOUSE IS CHECKED. THE ROVING PATROLS WOULD BE A DETERRENT TO SURVEILLANCE OF USG RESIDENCES BY TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS, A PROBLEM WE HAVE FACED HERE ON A CONTINUING BASIS. IN ADDITION, THE VEHICLES WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH RADIOS LINKED TO THE US MISSION SECURITY NET, SO AS TO PROVIDE INSTANT RESPONSE AFTER HOURS AND EVEN DURING WORKING HOURS TO PROBLEMS AT OUR RESIDENCES. RSO UNDERSTANDS THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN SANTO DOMINGO.
3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THERE IS NO INDICATION THE SECURITY PROBLEMS BOTH FROM TERRORISM AND CRIME ARE GOING TO DIMINISH IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE HAVE FOUND TO OUR DISMAY THE RESPONSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE POLICE TO SECURITY PROBLEMS AT OUR RESIDENCES TO BE POOR, NOT SO MUCH FROM LACK OF CONCERN AS FROM LACK OF RESOURCES, I.E. 25 PATROL CARS TO COVER A CITY OF 4 1/2 MILLION POPULATION. THERE IS NO INDICATION THIS SITUATION WILL IMPROVE.

4. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY OUR GUARD CONTRACTOR THAT THIS SERVICE CAN BE PROVIDED FOR 51,592 PESOS MONTHLY FOR THE CARS

(\$1,435.00) AND 44,052 PESOS MONTHLY FOR THE DRIVERS/GUARDS (\$1,224.00). THE COSTS COULD BE REDUCED CONSIDERABLY IF WE COULD OBTAIN TWO VEHICLES IN LIEU OF PAYING RENT ON VEHICLES FROM THE GUARD CONTRACTOR. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING OLD VEHICLES FROM OTHER AGENCIES IN THE U.S. MISSION BUT THE TIME FRAME IS UNKNOWN AND THERE IS A QUESTION OF THE RELIABILITY OF USING OLD VEHICLES FOR ROVING PATROLS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE VEHICLE AND MANPOWER COSTS, WATCHCLOCKS, DETEX PATROL (2) AT \$152.00 EACH AND KEY STATIONS (140) AT \$17.50 WOULD HAVE TO BE FUNDED.

6. RECENTLY THE SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE EXAMINED THE POSSIBILITY OF 24 HOUR GUARD SERVICE ON THE HOMES OF ALL U.S. MISSION AMERICANS WHICH COSTED OUT AT AN UNBELIEVABLE FIGURE OF \$600,000 PER YEAR. EVEN IF THE MISSION WERE CUT 50 PERCENT, ASSUMING THE SECURITY SITUATION WARRANTED SUCH A REDUCTION, 24 HOUR GUARD SERVICE WOULD STILL RUN \$300,000 AND 12 HOUR SERVICE \$150,000. THE ROVING PATROL CONCEPT, WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT AND CERTAINLY FROM A FINANCIAL VIEWPOINT WOULD COST ONLY \$31,908 PER ANNUM AND THE INITIAL COST OF DETEX CLOCKS AND KEYS OF \$2,450.00. IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION WE BELIEVE THE ROVING PATROL WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF ALL U.S. MISSION AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

7. THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL IS REQUESTED FOR THIS PROGRAM AND FUNDING FROM ANTI-TERRORIST MONIES. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF THE TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VEHICLES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ASEC
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